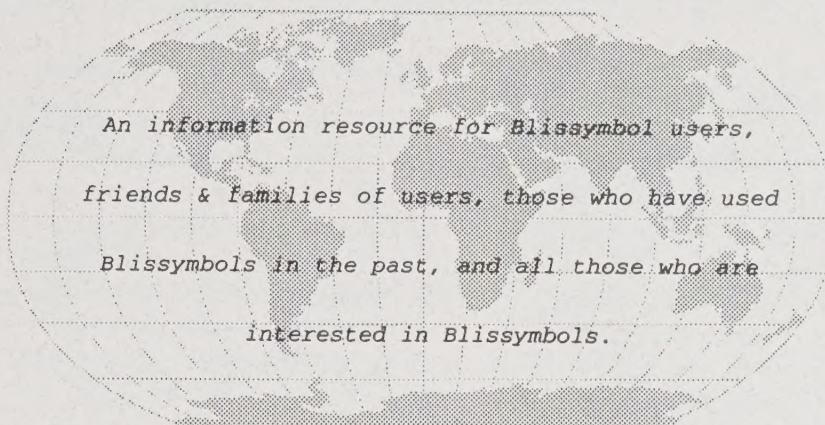
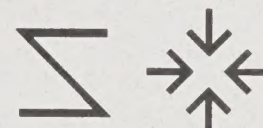


# BlissWorld



Fall 1993

## Bliss Forum



by Dr. Annalu Waller

I was delighted when I received an invitation to spend three months at BCI last year. My job description as the "Resident Blissymbol Specialist" was expansive. Katherine Seybold and Shirley McNaughton outlined various areas where they hoped I might provide some input and I realized that my ten weeks in Toronto would be varied and challenging.

I quickly came to grips with the machinations of BCI by acting as Katherine's assistant/sidekick. The first few weeks were dominated by 21st anniversary celebration organization; the production of the second issue of *BlissWorld*; a week-long visit by three people from Zimbabwe; a three day BlissNet training program; and all the usual BCI office jobs. The range of activities provided a unique opportunity to find my feet and feel somewhat useful.

### Technology assessment and planning

Much of my time was spent becoming familiar with Bliss software. Computer-based Bliss products fall into three categories: those commissioned by BCI (e.g. BlissNet and BlissLiteracy); those developed outside BCI and marketed through BCI (e.g. AccessBliss, StoryBliss, HyperBliss); and independent products (e.g. BMW, ISBLISS).

Most of the Macintosh-based programs are HyperCard applications. AccessBliss, for example, provides unique access to all Blissymbols which can then be pasted into other Macintosh applica-

tions. Other programs provide symbol selection for communication (e.g., HyperBliss) and/or support to literacy training (e.g., StoryBliss).

BlissNet, available for both IBM and Macintosh platforms, is an electronic mail system using Blissymbols. I was invited to join the three day training program which focused on training the four Bliss users who are now responsible for administering the system.

Most of the IBM Bliss applications are independent products (e.g. ISBLISS from Iceland and BlissProcessor from the Netherlands). BCI, however, has been responsible for coordinating the BlissLiteracy project. This project is nearing completion.

It was interesting for me to be working at BCI during a period when effort is being directed toward encouraging independent commercial software developers to produce Blissymbol applications. Due to the many demands upon BCI's limited resources, BCI-initiated projects must be carefully selected. Contacts were made with software companies and developers of dedicated communication devices and we explored ways in which Blissymbols could be provided for their products.

Unfortunately, we find ourselves in the proverbial chicken and egg situation. Availability depends on demand, but demand often depends on availability. Blissymbol users can help by increasing the demand for their own graphic system. If you are now a Bliss user and

Continued on page 2

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## From the Editor

Once again BCI is on the move! As of the end of September, BCI is moving its office to join with the Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy at **1630 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario M6L 1C5, CANADA**. We look forward to this new association and hope that if you are in Toronto, you will visit us there. A good opportunity to do so would be for the Evening for Friends of Bliss and/or the Bliss User Conference on October 21/22, 1993. (see details on p. 6-7). Please make a note of our new address and send future correspondence to BCI at our new home.

We continue to receive many ideas and requests for new Blissymbols from all over the world. These have been grouped into various special interest groups for further study and review (p. 4-5).

In this third edition of *BlissWorld* we are continuing to try to make our newsletter as international as possible, for the many Bliss users and those who are interested in Blissymbols around the world. Dr. Annalu Waller (p. 1) typifies our 'worldliness' by being our Affiliate from South Africa, doing research in Scotland, and spending 3 months with BCI in Canada last fall. Paul Marshall, a former Bliss user and now a member of the BCI Board of Directors, was invited to spend some time in Israel in the spring and he writes movingly of his visit (p. 3).

Help us maintain an international flavour in *BlissWorld* by sending us news and information from your part of the world!

## BlissForum (continued from page 1)

you are considering a voice output system, there is no reason to learn a new graphic system. It makes more sense to use your existing language. Stand up for your right to use your own language and ask that Blissymbols be made available for your device. Tell the person providing the device to contact BCI for more information.



*Dr. Annalu Waller - 1992 Resident Blissymbol Specialist*

## The use of Blissymbolics today

During my stay I had many opportunities to interact with AAC professionals in Toronto and at the ASHA conference. It was exciting to learn where the "pockets of Bliss" were in North America - settings where individual professionals and authorities actively support Bliss as an AAC tool. It was discouraging, however, to encounter assessment centres which were not even considering Bliss when prescribing a graphic system. Their reasons for not supporting Bliss reflect the economic times and a lack of understanding of Bliss in the nineties:

- **"If a child can learn Bliss, he can learn to read."** And I thought this argument had been laid to rest years ago! I have been fortunate over the years to meet a number of non-speaking adults who are highly competent Bliss users and yet have little or no literacy skills (not through lack of teaching). I shudder to think that had these individuals been assessed today, they could have been limited by picture boards and sight vocabulary. Are we going backwards?
- **"Bliss is too rigid."** Those who think this should attend Bliss in a Day to learn how flexible we can be with Blissymbols.
- **"Mainstreaming and Bliss do not work."** But surely the provision of an AAC system takes place in collaboration with an AAC professional. Symbols have always had words alongside for those who do not know the symbols. Mainstreaming should never mean that the child's language learning must be curtailed.
- **"Non-reading peers don't know the symbols."** Any graphic system, even pictures, has to be taught. I have interacted with children using picture-based systems where I had to rely on the words above the pictures. And Bliss is so easy to teach to all the children in a class - the symbols are good for everyone's language learning.
- **"Bliss is more difficult to learn than pictures."** Bliss does require more teaching, but the advantages inherent in the Bliss language can provide a rich learning environment through which the student can explore language and communication. The time is well-spent!

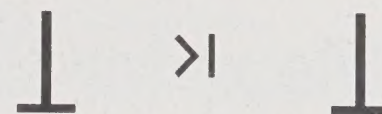
Continued on page 12

# BlissWorld

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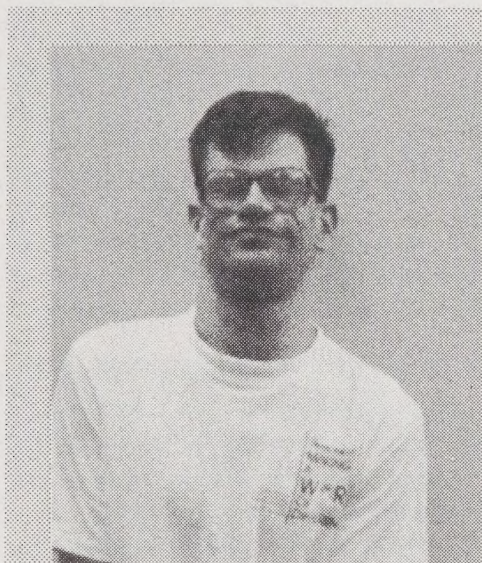


# Person to Person



## A Trip Filled With Learning and Loving Joy

by  
Paul Marshall



Paul Marshall

In the world in which we move and have our beginnings, it is easy for us to get so wrapped up in our own existence that we sometimes fail to realize that our life is but a small part of the whole, or that the part we play can be important in others' lives. Along the way, we have many opportunities to be involved with other people that drive us to change and move us to the next level in our own life.

I was blessed and honoured to have an opportunity that moved me onto the next level. ISAAC Israel invited me to come and talk to them about how I deal with being "nonspeaking". This trip was a very special circumstance that moved many people to have different views, ideas and outlooks regarding the field of augmentative and alternative communication. I believe this event moved us ahead. Personally it made me realize how thankful I should be. Like anything in life, we question if we can do the job that is set out for us. It made me realize how much work personally I can do for the awareness of AAC. I

remember thinking what a wonderful chance to tour Israel and help our where I can. I didn't realize how much personal growth I would gain in return.

When we landed in Tel Aviv, the people made us feel so welcome. It was like coming home. It felt that this was meant to be. My friend Suzanne (who went with me) and I felt, and still feel, great friendship with the people we met.

Some of the outstanding places we toured were Beersheba, the Dead Sea and Masada in the South; Nazareth, the Golan Heights and to the border of Israel and Lebanon in the north. The countryside is really hilly and very beautiful. We also visited some centres for handicapped people: Mish'aul in Jerusalem, where we viewed an assessment being done; an ONN School for children with cerebral palsy in Tel Aviv; Soroka Hospital in Beersheba; and a centre for all disabilities in Nazareth.

As we know, the state of Israel is relatively new. In many ways Israel is in its youth and still in the beginning stages of setting up programs for their handicapped population. Their views are wonderful and I believe if anyone has the right views the battle is half won. Even if the field of AAC is a new idea to the country as a whole, it was an honour and delight to know from my presentations and opportunities to talk to many people, that they gained from the views that I hold as a person with a "handicap". That really felt good - to know that I was allowed to share my story and to be a part of something that I know will grow and benefit others. I feel the sharing, learning, and the friendships that we made together was a changing process for everyone involved.

I changed from looking at a totally different culture. I never knew how blessed I was to grow up here in Canada at a time when I had the chance to reach out and develop to my fullest potential. That will always be a part of who I am.

Touring Israel will always be remembered as one of the many highlights to our trip. The friendships that Suzanne and I made are so special that these relationships will stand the miles between Israel and Canada. The people who work in the AAC field are great. You couldn't ask for a better group. I look forward to hearing of many breakthroughs in Israel's AAC work.

I will never forget my trip to Israel and I know I will never be the same. I am so thankful to be able to meet people who also enrich my life.

## BCI Needs You!

BCI continues to need your financial support - you can help by becoming a *Friend of Bliss*. As a *Friend of Bliss*, you will continue to receive our BlissWorld newsletter. As well, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your donation is helping BCI continue to fill its coordinating role between Bliss users and supporters around the world.

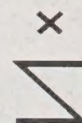
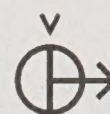
More than ever, Blissymbols are being developed and supported by volunteers. BCI wants to continue making its contribution to this process, but we need your help to make this happen.

Please send your donation to  
BCI, 1630 Lawrence Avenue  
West, Suite 104, Toronto,  
Ontario M6L 1C5, CANADA.



# Ideas for New Blissymbols

Symbols on this page are in an early development stage and are presented for discussion only.



We have been working hard at responding to the requests from Blissymbol users throughout the world for new symbols. No new symbols have been approved since several years before the Blissymbol Reference Guide was published (1992), so that we could complete the work on that. Since that time, the coordination of development of symbols has fallen almost completely on the shoulders of volunteers Jinny Storr and Peter Reich. We are now trying to delegate the responsibility for coming up with coherent proposals among a number of different groups. The proposals in the religious area generated some good response (see p. 9), and we hope to arouse interest in the other areas in this issue.

Sally Millar has agreed to take on the job of coordinating new symbols for **Music and the Performing Arts**. We have accumulated a list of over 100 proposed new symbols, including **violin, piano, guitar, drum, trombone, clarinet, soprano, concert, opera, waltz, and hymn**. Comments and requests should be directed to Sally Millar, CALL Centre, 4 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LW, SCOTLAND.

	violin, fiddle (pictograph of stringed instrument with bow)
	electric guitar (guitar [stringed instrument + 6: instrument with 6 strings] + electric)

The **Medical and Paramedical** area is one for which a large number of symbol requests have been received by BCI. Dr. Sophia Kalman has agreed to coordinate this committee. Over 150 symbols are being considered in this area. Here are a few examples: **cell, virus, rib, spine, biceps, vein, intes-**

**tine, dizzy, diarrhea, lung, stiffness, (to) change a battery**. Other suggestions are welcome, of course. Contact Sophia at Bliss Foundation, Budapest, P.O. Box 413, H-1446, HUNGARY.

	inherited disease (disease + chromosome [spiral + 2: double helix])
	microorganism, bacterium, germ (creature + minuscule [small + 2 x intensity])

Els Koerselman sent in a request for over 200 new Blissymbols, including many on **Leisure and Recreation**, an area that she has agreed to coordinate. On the back page are some proposed symbols for board games; some requests for sports include: **champion, Olympics, volleyball, archery**. Send comments, suggestions, and requests to Els Koerselman, Bliss-symbolen Communicatie Centrum, Revalidatiecentrum De Trappenberg, Crailosweg 116, Ex Huizen, THE NETHERLANDS 1272.

	winter Olympics (Olympics + winter)
	volleyball (action + ball + net [pictograph])

**Technology** is an area that generates many new words in English and other spoken languages, and, no doubt will require constant additions to the set of Blissymbols. Doug White has agreed to head the subcommittee on technology. Here are a few of the over 60 words for which we have Blissymbol suggestions: **control, faucet, joystick, thermostat, switch, modem, word processing program, floppy disk, robot, printer**. People

who wish to join the committee and/or make requests, comments or suggestions should contact Doug White, 307 W. Adams, Fairfield, Iowa 52556, USA.

	control (sun and cause: the sun represents the energy component of devices, and the whole thing is a pictograph of a dial)
	joystick (control + 4-way motion)

Gösta La Cour has agreed to look after **Thinking/Feeling/Knowing** symbol suggestions, of which there are already hundreds! A few are: **(to) consider, dilemma, confusing, regret, wonder, doubt, imaginary, cruel, (to) encourage, pleasure, courage, boring, misfortune, mystery, foolish, crazy**. He can be reached at Landsbyen 8, 2970, Hörsholm, DENMARK.

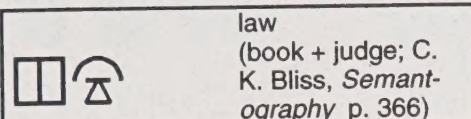
	(to) motivate, inspire (to cause + interest + action ind.)
	(to) encourage (to give + hope + action ind.)

Anne Warrick has suggested a new group to develop **Advocacy/Legal** vocabulary. Some possible new symbols: **law, legal, will, (to) vote, election, crime, (to) steal, assault, (to) confess, judge, innocent**. Anne can be reached at 213 Johnston Ave., Willowdale, Ontario M2N 1H4, CANADA.

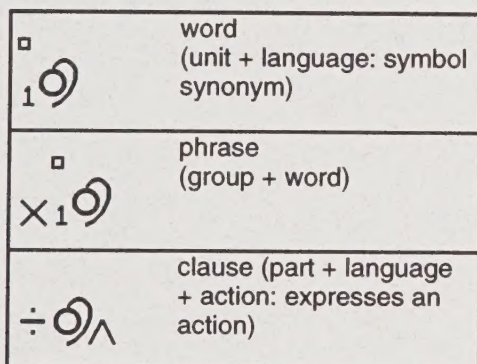
	will (paper + death + possessions)
--	---------------------------------------



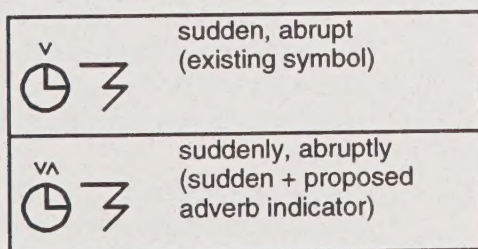
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**Grammar and Language** is another area of importance, one which especially requires representatives from as many different languages as possible. Peter Reich, 58 Keewatin Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4P 1Z8, CANADA, has agreed to head this group. One subarea is words for grammatical concepts. For example, the existing single symbol for **sentence**, **clause**, and **phrase**, and the symbol for **word** leave much to be desired.

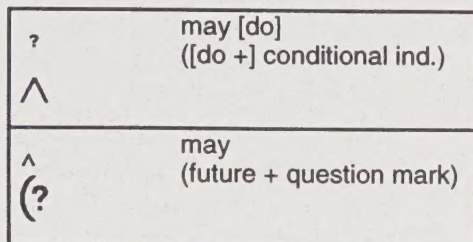


The other major area is how to represent grammatical concepts. A change that was discussed at the Israel conference in 1989 was to add to the set of indicators to allow one to distinguish adverbs from adjectives when useful. While usually not necessary when communicating using a symbol board, it is useful when using a voice output communication aid.

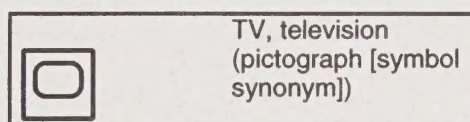


Another issue is how to represent verb modifiers, such as **may**, **might**, **should**, **could**, and **would**. Should we use indicators or separate symbols?

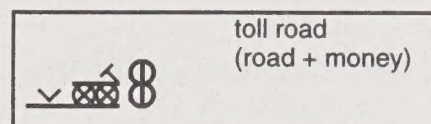
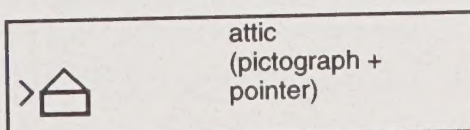
What implications does such a decision have on different language groups?



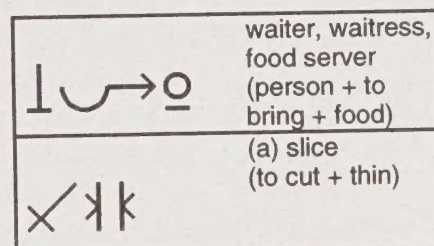
A committee for **Symbols for Young Children** is being headed by Shirley McNaughton, 120 Promenade Circle, Suite 802, Thornhill, Ontario L4J 7W9, CANADA. This group will be thinking about the developmental levels of children and their symbol needs before working on new symbols. One goal is to add vocabulary items which are unique to preschoolers. Examples might be **oh!**, **oh!**, **fibber**, or **right there**. Another more controversial goal is to add symbol synonyms in cases where the existing Blissymbol is perhaps too abstract or difficult for young children. One example might be our symbol for **TV** (enclosure + eye + ear + electric). Another might be **want** (heart + fire).



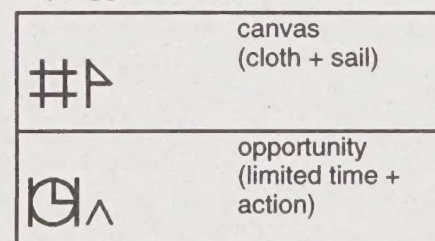
Patricia Bailey has agreed to coordinate the group for **Building/Transport/Geography**. Examples in this category are **condominium**, **duplex**, **tower**, **sidewalk**, **crosswalk**, **(to) pass**, **stop light**, **subway**, **Europe**, **North Pole**, and symbols for countries and their major cities. Anyone wishing to join this group and/or make requests or suggestions should contact Patricia at Horseshoe Cottage, Closewood Road, Denmead, Waterlooville, Hants. PO7 6TR, U.K.



Judy Seligman-Wine will be leading the group for **Food/Clothing**. Examples in this category are **waiter**, **menu**, **toaster**, **(to) stir**, **doughnut**, **vanilla**, **custard**, **catsup**, **fried chicken**. Anyone interested in joining this group or in making suggestions is asked to contact Judy at Romat Motza, Jerusalem, ISRAEL 95740.



Britt Carlsson Amberntson, SIH Iaromedel, Box 210 71, Goteborg, SWEDEN 400 71, has volunteered to lead a group for **Miscellaneous Symbols**. Presumably, any time a major area of development evolves, a separate subcommittee would be formed, but there will always be a need for symbols that do not fit the existing committee structure. Here are a few examples: **canvas**, **some day**, **opportunity**, **circus**.



We hope that there will be lively discussion and debate within the various groups. If you have an idea for a new group, please contact BCI. The next Affiliate meeting in Maastricht, The Netherlands, (October 1994) will be a good time to share many of the new Blissymbol proposals.



## FREE FREE FREE SYMBOL SECRETS

**Symbol Secrets** is a small paperback book written by Shirley McNaughton to tell the story of the first symbol users in 1971-72. It is illustrated and provides a direct and friendly way to obtain a first glimpse of Blissymbols and Bliss users.

If you would like a number of copies for workshops or meetings, they are available from BCI (while copies last!) for only the cost of postage.

### AN INVITATION TO ALL BLISS USERS

Please send to BCI your account of a memorable event in your life during 1993. Your submission will be exhibited during the Evening Of Bliss, October 21 and during the BlissUsers Conference, October 22. Some of the stories will be selected to be read by our special guests during the evening program on October 21. We want you to contribute to our gathering by sharing your memorable experiences with The Friends of Bliss! Mail your stories as soon as possible to BCI and have **your** story told!

### Work Opportunity

BCI is interested in knowing of Speech Pathologists, educators and Occupational Therapists who would be willing to work 1 to 4 days per month providing consultation and support to Bliss users in various regions of Ontario.

Interested professionals are asked to write to BCI, including experience, salary expectations and region in which you could serve.

## A Change In The Shirley McNaughton Travel Scholarship

At the time of Shirley McNaughton's retirement as executive director of BCI, a Travel Scholarship was created. As of July 1, 1993, it is changed to The Shirley McNaughton Blissymbol Project Scholarship. Funds will be made available annually to a total of \$1000 Cdn. to AAC users who wish to undertake projects to support public awareness or advocacy concerns relating to Blissymbol use in North America.

Examples of projects that will be eligible for funding are pamphlets, information at public meetings, community and conference presentations and exhibits, publishing a paper, story or poetry.

To apply, the augmentative communicator must describe the project for which the funding is being requested, provide a budget outlining how the money would be spent (maximum per project request is \$500.00) and explain how the project would help support the use of Blissymbols somewhere in North America. Applications should be sent to Shirley McNaughton, c/o BCI.

Recipients of The Shirley McNaughton Blissymbol Project Scholarship for 1993 will be announced at the Evening for Friends of Bliss, October 21, 1993.

# What's

?

Anno

*An Evening for the*  
8.00 pm to  
*Thursday, October 21*  
and  
*BlissUsers Conference*  
10.00 am to  
*Friday, October 22*

*to be held at the*  
**Blissymbolics Community**  
a  
**1630 Lawrence Avenue East**  
**Toronto, Ontario**

We invite all those within travelling distance who have used, have helped users with, or have been involved in Bliss at An Evening for The Friends of Bliss. The evening will be The Year That Was and will feature events in the lives of Bliss users, past and present, 1993.

The following day, we will have a conference for supporters, during which there will be group discussions and a display of materials. The theme will be Bliss Users Support.

Tickets are \$10.00 per person for An Evening for The Friends of Bliss and \$20.00 per person for the evening & conference tickets or further information.



# New



cing

## Friends of Bliss

0.00 pm  
er 21, 1993

ference  
4.00 pm  
r 22, 1993

new home of  
cation International

venue West,  
ntario

tance of Toronto, who use, have  
terest in Blissymbolics, to join us  
The theme for the evening gather-  
include presentations featuring  
resent and future, during the year

rence for Bliss users and their  
panel and consumer presentation,  
rials supportive of Bliss advocacy.  
g Bliss Use.

ening for the Friends of Bliss or  
ference. Please contact BCI for

## BlissProcessor

**BlissProcessor** is a software package which runs on any MS-DOS computer. It can optimize communication as well as instruction as it supports several input devices and individual vocabularies. Based on a complete library of nearly 3000 Blissymbols, it consists of different modules, including:

- Bliss-Editor for changing or adding symbols to the library.
- Bliss-Chart, a customized group of symbols for a particular user.
- Bliss-Text, a document processor for Blissymbols; different levels of complexity can be selected.
- Bliss-Talk, a pre-recorded voice output when the word is selected.

### Useful features include:

- variation in size and colour of symbols on the screen
- choice of access controls (keyboard, mouse, trackball, joystick, switches)
- multi-user version
- available in Dutch, English and German

### Technical Requirements:

- MS-DOS 3.2 or higher
- Hard disk (software uses approx. 1.2 Mb.)
- colour screen recommended, preferably VGA resolution or better; other standards supported

### Specifications:

- start-up disk is supplied
- speech output available as an option

Further information can be obtained by contacting  
BCI or HANDICOM, Oranjelaan 29, NL-3843 AA  
HARDERAIJK, The Netherlands

## AccessBliss Talker

**AccessBlissTalker** (© 1992 BCI) is a Blissymbol communication program for the Macintosh computer. A "computer Blissboard", **AccessBliss Talker** functions as a Blissboard with speech output, document generation, saving and printing. Blissymbols can be grouped as they would be on a Blissboard (completely customized by the user) with a menu system designed to minimize key strokes or switch activations for the access of any symbol.

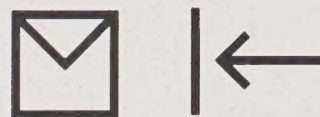
### Special Features:

- easy to set up customized Blissboard
- default arrangement is modelled after "Finding Symbols By Meaning" in Blissymbol Reference Guide
- combined with a computer, can be used as a communication device
- can be used for writing letters, stories or poems

AccessBliss Talker is available from BCI.



# Correspondence



## A Biopoem

by

Shayne Dennis, age 12 CANADA

? 1 ^  
 O 1 1 ?

### Who Am I?

Rs .

Shayne.

♡↑,

Happy,

♡↑○,

Funny,

♡+!

Good,

^ ^

Wishes to walk,

^ □ ^ 1 ± ○,

Dreams of helping people to have food,

♡ } 1 x ○ / =

Wants to clean up the world.

„ 1 ^ ↑ ! ? > ^ ~ )

Who wonders about dinosaurs.

„ 1 ♡ ↓ ( ? ^ ↓ 4 - ! ^

Who fears robbers.

„ 1 ♡ + ! ^ ~

Who likes to swim.

„ 1 ♡ △ ^ 1 ^ □ 1 .

Who believes in helping disabled people.

„ 1 - ♡ → ○ : r r | ++ ○ π e .

Who loves spaghetti with meatballs.

„ 1 - ♡ → ^ .

Who loves dogs.

„ 1 - ♡ → → ^ ↓ x + ^ ♡ ↑

Who loves to go fishing and play

^ e ^ < .

baseball.

„ 1 - ♡ → ^ + → > | □ ^

Who loves God and going to church.

„ 1 ^ ^ ^ \ ♡ + ! 1 ^ .

Who plans to be a good worker.

„ 1 ^ ^ ^ \ ^ ^ \ Ω

Who plans to be a father someday.

„ 1 ^ ^ ^ □ \ ♡ ↑ □ ♡ .

Who plans to live in a happy home.

„ 1 ♡ } ^ \ ^ ^

Who wants to live a long time.

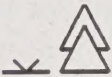
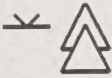


## Responses to Ideas for New Blissymbols


Symbols on this page are in an early development stage and are presented for discussion only.

Lee Mehrlich really appreciated the responses he received to the symbol suggestions in the last issue. He reported that he received responses from Italy, Australia, France, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, and England. We report here a few of the ideas that have been reported to us so far.

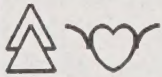
People generally did not like our suggestion for *heaven*. They felt that it should contain the symbol for *sky*.

	heaven (prev. suggestion— place + God; no one liked this!)
	heaven (place in sky + God)

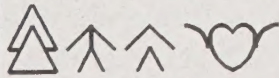
If heaven is a sky place of God, then hell must be an earth place of the devil. One suggestion was that the devil was someone with horns. Thus *hell* would be:

	hell (place + devil)
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
Some of the most radical, yet creative, ideas came from Doug Evringham, in Australia. Several people commented that the Holy Spirit should have God as the first symbol. Doug proposed for *spirit*, a heart with wings. Thus:

	Holy Spirit (God + spirit)
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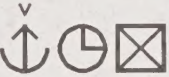
And the *Holy Trinity* would be:

	Holy Trinity (God + father + son + spirit)
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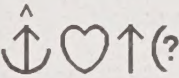
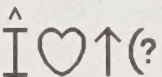
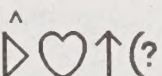
or, for short,

	Holy Trinity (God + 3)
---	---------------------------

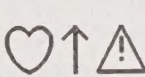
The complaint for the original suggestion for *unfailing* was that it was too negative to describe a positive concept. Olga Carstens suggested that we include the symbol for *give*, "I like the symbol for *give* in this proposal; when I think of God and his unfailing love for all people."

	unfailing (giving + forever + desc. ind.)
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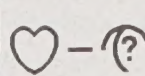
One can encourage without speaking. Thus, perhaps we could suggest one of the following:

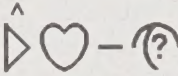
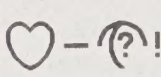
	(to) encourage (to give + hope + action ind.)
	(to) encourage (to increase + hope + action ind.)
	(to) encourage (to cause + hope + action ind.)

Or should it be related to courage? What is courage? Perhaps this:

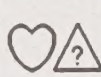

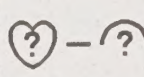
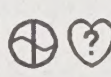
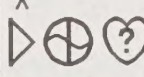
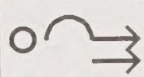


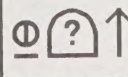

	courage, bravery (feeling + up + danger)
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The people working on religion want *astonished*. This poses a problem, since "surprise + intensity" gives an already existing symbol, *excitement*. The problem goes back to a faulty series created by Charles Bliss (CKB 305), in which *surprise* had one exclamation mark, *astonishment* two, *sensation* three, and *excitement* four. But these are clearly not a series differing only in intensity. Perhaps we need a symbol synonym for *surprise* that is more accurate.

	surprise (feeling + unexpected)
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	(to) surprise (symbol synonym) (to cause + surprise + action ind.)
	astonishment (surprise + intensity)

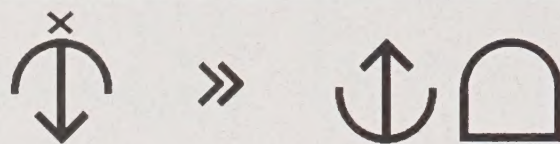
Pina Gennaro submitted a large list of other terms useful in religion, and Lee's list was much longer than we could convey in the last issue. Here are some more symbol suggestions in the area of religion.

	belief (existing symbol)
	belief (symbol synonym) (comb. feeling and question mark)
	faith (belief + without + doubt)
	conversion (to change + belief)
	(to) convert (to cause + conversion + action ind.)
	sermon (to say + persuade)
	(the) unknown
	mystery (event + unknown)
	miracle (mystery + happy [contr.])
	magic (unknown + intensity)

Keep those ideas coming!



# Tips for Teaching:



by Bette Stephenson-Wright

Christine wrote a poem "The War" and I will explain the process we went through in writing the poem.

First Christine indicated that she wanted to write a poem. I gave her the choice of writing about whatever she wanted. She chose war.

Next Christine "brainstormed" for ideas and gave me the following list:

hate  
mean and cruel  
afraid  
jealous  
worry  
television  
parents talk  
behaviour  
airplane cold loud  
selfish

blood  
Americans  
stupid

From this list, I asked Christine to expand the words into phrases:

television - see people hurt, cry,  
airplane - cold, ugly  
all the talk of war  
hear mother, father, angry  
Saddam Hussein - mean, cruel  
I feel afraid  
I worry  
  
Sorry for people over there (Iraq)  
Americans - planes over land  
people hurt  
Bush selfish, not respect people there  
I'm not sure what he wants there

I wish for peace

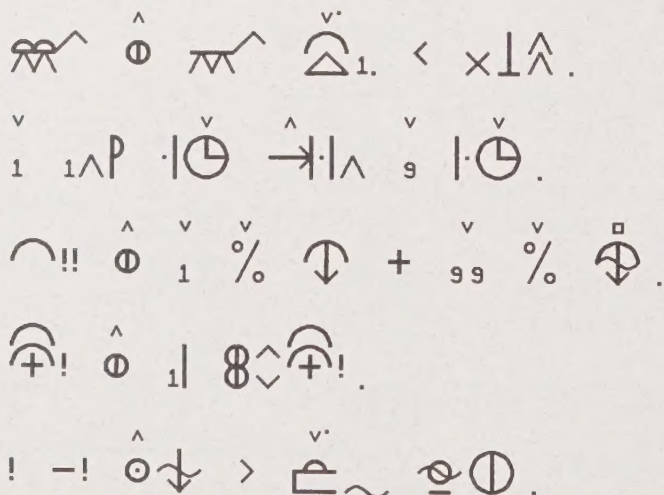
I discussed the poetry styles with Christine. She chose "free verse". I asked her to read her rough notes over several time. Then she indicated that she was ready to put her ideas into a poem. Christine wrote the poem, pointing to Blissymbols in her communication book. I scribed her exact words [shown on the next page].

After completing the poem,  
Christine told me she wanted to go to Iraq.  
"Why?" I questioned.  
"To fight!" she replied.  
"To fight? Christine, don't be ridiculous!", I replied in my "teacher's voice."  
"Not with my hands," she answered.  
"With my mind!"  
"Oh!", I whispered.

(Editors Note: The poem on the following page was sent to us by a teacher of a Blissymbol user concerning the War in the Gulf in 1991, but it could relate to any major event having an impact upon students.)

## Answers to Bliss Games Fall 1992

1. "A camel is a horse invented by a committee." *Invented* is derived from *to invent* by making it description after the fact. I thought that a *committee* might be a "group + work."
2. "A stitch in time saves nine." Literally translated from the Bliss: One stitch early prevents nine late. *Stitch* is one action of



a needle; *prevent* is "stop + before + action." *Late* was added to make it rhyme in Bliss.

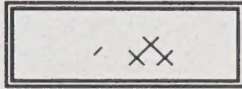
3. "Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." *Genius* is derived from *smart* by making it a noun and adding intensity; *inspiration* is considered a synonym for *idea*; and although there is a Blissymbol for *perspiration*, one of the nice things about this saying in English is that it rhymes, so I made it rhyme in Bliss by translating *perspiration* as "rain from the brain." This was a favourite proverb of Charles Bliss, as you may recall from the videotape "Mr. Symbol Man."

4. "Virtue is its own reward." Literally translated: Rightness is self reward. I translated *reward* as "money for rightness."

5. "Don't cry over spilt milk." For *spilt* I chose an overturned glass + liquid on the ground. Thanks to Lee Mehrlich for inventing this Blissymbol, though he had another meaning in mind.

Sayings are specific to particular languages. We would like to hear from readers from other language communities with sayings in their languages translated into Bliss. Teachers may want to try this as an exercise for their advanced students.





$\perp_1 \hat{\pm} \setminus \lfloor ? \rfloor$ .

$? \oplus \hat{\phi} \cdot \times \hat{\rightarrow} ?$

$\perp_1 \hat{\phi} \hat{\wedge} + \hat{\vee} / > \perp$ .

$\perp_1 \hat{\phi} \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\wedge}$ ,

$+ \perp_1 \hat{\phi} \hat{\phi} \hat{\downarrow}$ ,

$\times \square \odot \gamma$ .

$\cdot \hat{\times} \hat{\times} \hat{\times} : \langle \hat{\vee} \rangle + \hat{\phi} \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\downarrow}$ .

$\hat{\otimes} \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\downarrow}$ .

$\perp_1 \hat{\phi} \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\phi}$ .

$\perp \leadsto sh:$

$\hat{\vee} \times + \hat{\vee} \times > \lambda_{3+} \hat{\downarrow}$ .

$\perp \leadsto gb:$

$\hat{\downarrow} \hat{\vee} + \hat{\downarrow}$ .

$\lambda_3 \hat{\downarrow} \lambda_{3+} \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\wedge}$ .

$\perp_1 \hat{\phi} \neg! \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\vee} \square \lambda_3 \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\vee}$ .

$\perp_1 \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\vee} \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\phi}$ .

$\perp_1 \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\leftarrow}$ .

$\perp_1 \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\rightarrow} \hat{\leftarrow}$ .

$\perp_1 \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\uparrow} \hat{\phi} \cdot \hat{\lambda} + \hat{\lambda} \hat{\leftarrow} \triangle \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\vee} \hat{\wedge}$ .

$\perp_1 \hat{\heartsuit} \hat{\downarrow} \hat{\times} \hat{\times}$ .

## THE WAR

I have a question.

When will the fighting end?

I am sick and tired of it.

I see people hurt,

and I see crying,

on TV.

The war airplanes: cold and ugly.

Bombs fall down.

It is scary.

Saddam Hussein:

mean and cruel to his people.

George Bush:

stupid and selfish.

He will get his people hurt.

I am not sure what he wants there.

I feel afraid.

I worry.

I feel frustration.

I hope the men and women come home safe.

I wish for peace.

Christine Jimenez, CANADA

February 1991



Bliss Forum (continued from page 2)

• "Bliss is not available on all voice output communication devices." Often, Bliss could be used on a device, but the application of Bliss is not immediately obvious. As emphasized above, Bliss users need to ask for their Blissymbols.

An important question to ask is: "Are we taking the easy way out, thus restricting the potential for language development?" The unique benefits and the teaching requirements of Bliss have been discussed since the 1970's, but there has been very little research to support subjective claims. The comments above require investigation and I would encourage any research in this area.

### BCI and the future

Working in the BCI office was an eye-opener. I was struck by the number of requests for local and countrywide Blissymbol support. On an international level, BCI receives correspondence on a daily basis.

The members of the BCI Board of Directors met in December and a new organizational structure which relies heavily upon volunteers was implemented. The international affiliate structure remains an important area within BCI and this interaction will be supported by Katherine Seybold. The development of the system of Blissymbolics continues to be co-ordinated by Peter Reich and Jinny Storr. Service to Bliss users in North America is supported by Shirley McNaughton and Training, by Peter Lindsay. Board members are more and more taking on responsibilities originally undertaken by staff. There is an increasing need for affiliates to work closely with them.

### Conclusion

My ten weeks in Toronto gave me a new insight into Bliss. I felt honoured to have had the opportunity to work with BCI and its band of volunteers. I learned so much of the history of Bliss, made new friends, renewed old friendships, and had the opportunity to meet many "famous" Bliss users at the 21st Celebration. I enjoyed tremendous hospitality and would like to thank everyone who made my stay so memorable.

# Bliss Games



## Game matching game

One type of recreational activity is to play a table game. The list below contains some proposed Blissymbols for some common table games. Can you match the proposed Blissymbols to the games listed in the right-hand column? What do you think of the proposed symbols? What other games would you like to see in Blissymbols?

↗♥↑<sub>1</sub>

bingo

↗⊞

blackjack

↗⊞○

checkers

↗⊞abc

chess

↗⊞\*

Chinese checkers

↗⊞⊞

crossword puzzle

⊞abc\

craps

↗⊞⊞

dominoes

↗⊞⊞

Go

↗⊞b1

Monopoly

↗⊞⊞<sub>21</sub>

roulette

↗⊞⊞

Scrabble

↗⊞1)

solitaire

↗⊞?

Trivial Pursuit

### International Pen Pals

•John Thomson  
Corseford Residential School  
Howwood Road  
Milliken Park  
Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire  
SCOTLAND PA10 2NT

•Steve Johnson  
1933 Burlewood  
St. Louis, MO 63146 USA  
•Anders Lidholm  
Gafsele 588  
91060 Asele, SWEDEN